

# Rare Plants of Louisiana



## *Ratibida peduncularis* - Mexican hat Sunflower Family (Asteraceae)

**Rarity Rank:** S2S3/G4G5

	1	2	3	4	5
State					
Global					
	imperiled		rare		secure

**Range:** LA, TX

### **Recognition:**

- Member of the sunflower family with rays drooping and bright yellow, with reddish brown markings at the base
- Center disc is dark brown, elongated and column-shaped
- Flower heads born on long naked stalks, well exerted above the foliage
- Leaves deeply dissected, to 15 cm long, crowded at the base of the plant

**Flowering Time:** April to December

**Light Requirement:** Full sun

### **Wetland Indicator Status:**

Does not occur in wetlands anywhere in range

### **Habitat:**

Coastal dune grassland, Gulf beach, and disturbed areas with loose sand; we have one record from a marsh-fringing coastal prairie in Vermilion Parish.

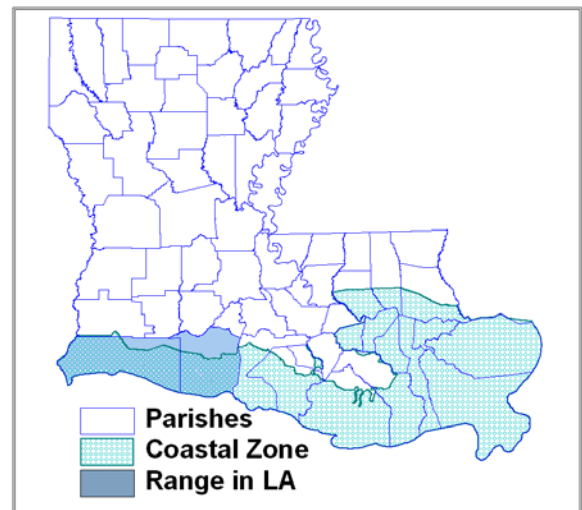
### **Threats:**

- Shoreline erosion
- Off-road vehicle use
- Invasive exotic species
- Overgrazing

### **Beneficial Management Practices:**

- Shoreline or island stabilization
- Prohibit off-road vehicle use on beaches and dunes
- Remove any invasive exotic plant species with use of spot herbicides or mechanical means
- Prohibit livestock grazing

**LA River Basins:** Vermilion-Teche, Mermentau, Calcasieu, Sabine



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*Ratibida peduncularis* in Cameron Parish. Note how the leaves are crowded near the base and that the flower heads are exerted above the foliage on long stalks. Also note how the disk flowers form an elongated column in the center of the flower heads.

## References:

Ghandi, K.N. & R.D. Thomas. 1989. Asteraceae of Louisiana. Sida, Bot. Misc. 4:1-202.

Richardson, A. 2002. Wildflowers and other plants of Texas beaches and islands. University of Texas Press, Austin. 247 pp.

USDA, NRCS. 2007. The PLANTS Database (<http://plants.usda.gov>). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.

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For more information, please visit our Web pages at

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